



# GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

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**MEETING DATE:** February 19, 2020

**DEPARTMENT:** Administration

**SUBMITTED BY:** Nate Alger, County Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Administrator's Report

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**RECOMMENDATION:**  
Information

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**SUMMARY:**

Administrator's Report

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[February 19 Administrator Report](#)



## **Administrator Report For February 19, 2020 Meeting**

### **Senior Center Network**

Over 300 appointments have been made to receive free income tax assistance services this year. This program saves seniors thousands of dollars annually, not only in filing fees, but in realized income that is refunded to them. This program is offered in cooperation with AARP and provided at three Senior Center locations and the Commission on Aging offices.

### **Health Department**

**Radon:** During Radon action month, the Environmental Health Division gave out 511 Radon Kits in exchange for a donated food item. 1140 lbs of food was collected and donated.

**Novel Coronavirus 2019:** Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) is actively preparing for the potential public health response to the novel 2019 Coronavirus outbreak that is occurring right now. This outbreak investigation is ongoing; we learn more every day about this newly emerging virus. Grand Traverse County Health Department is closely monitoring information regarding the Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) and sharing information with medical providers, community partners, and the public as it becomes available. Health Department officials are working with community partners to ensure that we are prepared should a local threat arise, however at this time the risk for Coronavirus is relatively low due to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) travel restrictions, including funneling travelers from China to 12 airports for screening, potential quarantine and/or subsequent monitoring.

The Health Department is prepared to assist individuals in our area who may have had recent travel in China as well as providing guidance to our area physicians on appropriate testing should the need arise. The Health Department is committed to protecting the health and safety of all our community and is working closely with the state health department and Centers for Disease Control to reduce the risk to citizens and prevent the spread of disease if a case is identified locally.

### **MSU Extension 4-H**

The 4-H Program Year started September 1<sup>st</sup>, but enrollment is currently ramping up as youth acquire project animals and register them for participation in the Northwestern Michigan Fair. We just collected 78 Steer and Heifer registrations! Two new 4-H clubs have formed in the county, one horse club and one leadership and poultry club. Volunteers are an instrumental part of the 4-H Community and go through a rigorous selection process. Currently 12 people are in the process to join our 150 current adult volunteers. Youth and adults interested in getting involved in 4-H can contact Susy White, Grand Traverse County 4-H Program Coordinator, at 231-922-4825 or [Turcotts@msu.edu](mailto:Turcotts@msu.edu).

### **Drain Commission**

Historic high water levels, both surface water and groundwater, have produced numerous calls to the drain office requesting assistance or advice. As reported at the February 5th County Commission meeting the Cass Road Drain Project is currently on hold until an agreement can

be reached with the engineering firm that produced the draft plans. Once an agreement is reached the project will move forward. Revenue from Special Assessment Districts for Duck Lake, Silver Lake, and the Old Mission Drain will provide funding for future maintenance and drainage infrastructure improvements.

## **Administration**

### **Northern Michigan Association of Counties Meeting**

- 2nd Amendment Sanctuary County Discussion
- MAC Update
  1. Governor is going to bond for the roads
  2. Veterans Property Tax issue
  3. Solar benefits
  4. Foreclosure Suit - County can charge the losses back to the twps, cities, or schools.
  5. Trial court funding commission - Looking for a 3 to 5 year extension.
  6. Governor's Jail Task Force -
  7. 4 year term - Question about whether or not it should be on the presidential or gubernatorial election cycles. Labor unions have a serious impact in this discussion. The concern expressed is that the Governor won't sign it if the labor unions are opposed.
  8. High water discussion - EGLE is expediting permits. Current average turn around is 14 days to address issues on the shoreline. Sewer and stormwater infrastructure is going to be seriously impacted. Feb 10th Summit with EGLE.
- Presentation on Medical Examiner Services

**Grand Opening Of the Census Bureau** - On February 10th I attended the US Census Bureau Grand Opening at the Grand Traverse Mall in Garfield. That office has employed more than 50 people since late last year.

**Airport Governance Discussion** - I attended the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners meeting on February 11th to present with Mr. Janik to the Commissioners, written answers to their questions much as we did in Grand Traverse County. The Leelanau Board of Commissioners directed Mr. Janik to work with me to create Articles of Incorporation that would show how each governance model would address such issues as eminent domain and zoning.

Mr. Janik, Mr. Klein, and I will be headed to Grand Rapids Friday the 21st to have a discussion with the Grand Rapids Regional Airport Director and the County Administrator.

**Senior Center** - We have a request from the Senior Center Friends Group to discuss a county wide millage with the Board of Commissioners to construct a new Senior Center and an additional millage to maintain and operate the Senior Center. The Friends Group is interested in discussing a 1 mil for construction and an additional .1 mil on the current operating millage

being added to the ballot in August. If the Board wishes to put this on the August Ballot action needs to be taken prior to May 12th.

**Civic Center South** - On February 13th Commissioner Hentschel, Commissioner Clous, and I presented two \$20,000 checks to the Civic Center South Board. The Board and their represented communities were very thankful for the support from Grand Traverse County.

